

REMARKS

Claims 8-13, 29, and 31-39 were previously pending in the present application. Claims 36 and 38 are currently canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and no claims are currently added. Thus, claims 8-13, 29, 31-35, 37, and 39 are currently pending. Reconsideration of the present application in light of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner has rejected claims 8-13, 29, and 31-35 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 6,311,069 to Havinis, et al. (“Havinis”) in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,675,017 to Zellner, et al. (“Zellner”). However, the Examiner has also indicated that previously-pending claims 36 and 38, among others, would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, claim 8 is currently amended to include the subject matter of previously-pending claim 36, and claim 29 is currently amended to include the subject matter of previously-pending claim 38. Consequently, claims 8 and 29 are believed to be allowable over the combination of Havinis and Zellner. Moreover, claims 9-13 each depend from claim 8, and claims 31-35 each depend from claim 29, such that claims 9-13 and 31-35 are also believed to be allowable over the combination of Havinis and Zellner. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the §103 rejection of claims 8-13, 29, and 31-35.

Conclusion

All matters set forth in the Office Action have been addressed. Accordingly, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and an early indication of allowability are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner deem that an interview with Applicants' undersigned attorney would expedite consideration, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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